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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

BARTELL RANCH LLC, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

ESTER M. McCULLOUGH, *et al.*,

Defendants,

WESTERN WATERSHEDS PROJECT, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE
INTERIOR, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Lead Case:

Case No.: 3:21-cv-00080-MMD-CLB

Consolidated with:

Case No.: 3:21-cv-00103-MMD-CLB

**BURNS PAIUTE TRIBE'S JOINDER IN
SUPPORT IN ENVIRONMENTAL
PLAINTIFFS' EMERGENCY MOTION
FOR INJUNCTION PENDING APPEAL**

Intervenor-Plaintiff Burns Paiute Tribe ("Tribe") submit this Joinder in support of the Environmental Plaintiffs' Emergency Motion for Injunction Pending Appeal (ECF No. 284). This joinder is based upon the accompanying additional argument below and the pleadings and

papers filed by Environmental Plaintiffs in support of the Emergency Motion for Injunction Pending Appeal.

I. ARGUMENT IN SUPPORT OF INJUNCTION PENDING APPEAL

In addition to the harm set forth in the Environmental Plaintiffs' Emergency Motion, the Tribe asserts additional harm will occur if ground disturbing activities proceed. This includes a distinct risk of harm to the Burns Paiute Tribe. The Burns Paiute Tribe recognizes the spiritual and cultural importance of all places where their ancestors lives and that the material culture of the Tribe "is invaluable, irreplaceable, and [an] endangered aspect of our cultural heritage." Exhibit A at 1. Northern Paiute traditional beliefs and practice is to not remove cultural materials of Tribal ancestors. *Id.*

The Thacker Pass area is of significant religious, historic, and cultural significance to the Tribe and an area that continues to be utilized. Fourth Teeman Decl. ¶¶ 2-4. The Tribe specifically considers the area to be of significant cultural, historic, and spiritual significance. *Id.* ¶ 3.

Ground disturbing activities at Thacker Pass will irreversibly damage the important values the Tribe attributes to the landscape. Fourth Teeman Decl. ¶ 7. Moving ancestral items from the Thacker Pass area is a sacrilege to the Tribe and an adverse effect under the National Historic Preservation Act. *Id.* ¶ 8.

The impacts to the significant landscape and ancestral resources caused by the project is harm to the Tribe. *Quechan Tribe of Fort Yuma Indian Reservation v. U.S. Dep't of Interior*, 755 F. Supp. 2d 1104, 1120 (S.D. Cal. 2010) (damage to historic sites is harm); *Yankton Sioux Tribe v. U.S. Army Corps of Eng'rs*, 209 F. Supp. 2d 1008, 1022 (D.S.D. 2002) (harm from destruction of ancestral remains); *Northern Cheyenne Tribe v. Hodel*, 851 F.2d 1152, 1158 (9th Cir. 1988) (cultural, social, and economic harms to a Tribe can constitute irreparable harm for purposes of

1 an injunction). Courts have concluded that the nature of Tribal rights warrant unique protection
 2 because harm to them is presumed to be irreparable. *See United States v. Michigan*, 508 F. Supp.
 3 480, 492 (W.D. Mich. 1980), *aff'd*, 712 F.2d 242 (6th Cir. 1983); *Nez Perce Tribe v. U.S. Forest*
 4 *Serv.*, No. 3:13-CV-348-BLW, 2013 WL 5212317, at *7 (D. Idaho Sept. 12, 2013) (“The
 5 plaintiffs are not seeking damages; they are seeking to preserve their Treaty rights along with
 6 cultural and intrinsic values that have no price tag.”).

7 As this Court stated in its Order approving RSIC’s intervention, the impending digging
 8 up and removal of these resources will result in immediate and irreparable harm to Tribal
 9 interests: “The Tribes persuasively argue that the digging incident to this plan will cause them
 10 irreparable harm. (ECF Nos. 43, 43-1, 44-1.)” Order granting RSIC intervention, at 7-8 (ECF
 11 No. 59). Ground disturbing activities will irreparably harm cultural, historic, and archaeological
 12 resources important to the Tribes and tribal people in this proceeding. Fourth Teeman Decl. ¶¶
 13 7-8. This amounts to the type of harm that warrants the issuance of the emergency injunction.

14 II. CONCLUSION

15 The Environmental Plaintiffs has satisfied the requirements for this Court to issue an
 16 emergency motion. The harm they seek to stop includes the impending ground disturbing
 17 activities that will irreparably impact an area of Tribal religious, cultural, and historical
 18 significance. Accordingly, this Court should grant the motion and enjoin any ground disturbing
 19 activities authorized by the Federal Defendants pending an appeal of this matter.

20 Dated this 22nd day of February 2023.

21 KAEMPFER CROWELL

WHEAT LAW OFFICE

22 By:/s/Louis M. Bubala III
 LOUIS M. BUBALA III

23 By:/s/Rick Eichstaedt
 RICK EICHSTAEDT

24 Attorneys for Burns Paiute Tribe

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on February 22, 2023, I filed the foregoing using the United States District Court CM/ECF, which caused all counsel of record to be served electronically.

By: /s/Rick Eichstaedt
RICK EICHSTAEDT